Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03986 091431Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8367

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL PRETORIA 3986

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, SF, WA

SUBJECT: SOUTH WEST AFRICA MP S NOT TO ATTEND PARTY CAUCUS

REF: PRETORIA 3771

- 1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT OF AUGUST 9, NATIONAL PARTY MP S AND SENATORS FROM SWA/NAMIBIA WILL NOT ATTEND THE NP CAUCUS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 20 IN CAPE TOWN. THIS DECISION REPORTEDLY FOLLOWED A MEETING OF NATIONAL PARTY MEMBERS IN NAMIBIA WITH P.W. BOTHA, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, WHO ACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINISTER PIK BOTHA ON WINDHOEK ON AUGUST 8.
- 2. COMMENT: THE DECISION REPRESENTS THE FIRST STEP BY THE NATIONAL PARTY IN SWA/NAMIBIA TO LOOSEN ITS TIES WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARTY.-A STEP THAT SOME NAMIBIAN NATS HAVE RESISTED. SO FAR AS WE KNOW THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE DEFENSE MINISTER HAS TRAVELED TO WINDHOEK SINCE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 03986 091431Z

WESTERN INITIATIVE ON NAMIBIA BEGAN. HE MAY HAVE GONE PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS PARTY AFFAIRS BUT HIS PRESENCE COULD ALSO BE INTERPRETED AS A GESTURE OF REASSURANCE TO THE TURNHALLE GROUP.

BOWDLER

	Margarat D. Crafold	Declaration / Palaced	LIS Donartment of State	EO Systematic Povicy	22 May 2000
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